

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Accomack County, Virginia.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

March 12, 2013 to April 9, 2013

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal activity to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) proposes to renourish the beach at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) on Wallops Island in Accomack County. The project includes the dredging and placement of up to 800,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand from an offshore borrow area (Unnamed Shoal A) using one or more trailing suction hopper dredges to obtain the material. This would require one or more anchored pumpout stations approximately 2 miles east of Wallops Island in 25-30 feet of water. Up to several miles of submerged steel pipeline would be temporarily placed on the seafloor and would be the conduit by which the sand/water slurry would be pumped from the dredge to the beach. Once discharged onto the beach, mechanized equipment (e.g., bulldozers) would grade the material to the design template. The linear extent of the proposed beach fill would be approximately 2.3 miles between the Z-100 camera stand on the south up to just beyond the Horizontal Integration Facility located mid-island. Following beach fill, NASA would re-plant the dunes with native vegetation and install sand fencing to trap windblown sand. It is expected that the dredging and beach fill work would take between 1.5-3 months to complete. Depending upon the amount of funding available for the project, NASA may further extend its rock seawall to the south. NASA has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed project consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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